

Crack cocaine crisis  
brings Florida's heavy  
hitters to the conference table

(see page 4)



## For Sheriff Perry:

# Putting volunteers on pawn shop circuit turned out to be an excellent decision

ST. AUGUSTINE — Sheriff Neil Perry saw a golden opportunity when Oscar Welling, a retired New York State cop, and Joe Mirman, a retired Veterans Administration supervisor from Washington, D.C., volunteered their services to the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Perry's deputies assigned to the burglary unit were overloaded with cases, and someone was needed to check pawn shops and precious metal shops in search of stolen property. Perry felt this was something Oscar and Joe could do, but since they did not know each other and came from different backgrounds, he wondered if sending them out as his pawn shop detail would work.

He needn't have wondered, because it soon became evident that the two volunteers could function as a team.

"Yes, it really did work . . . absolutely!" Perry said recently. "On several occasions Oscar and Joe have been responsible for recovering stolen property, and they have produced information leading to arrests for burglary and grand theft.

"I am really proud of them," he added. "Twice a week they collect pawn tickets and sales slips from four pawn shops and seven precious metal shops. They also collect and file information that can be used by investigators, and they have developed a good working relationship with the shopkeepers they visit."

Meanwhile, Joe and Oscar have been learning a lot about the pawn shop business and enjoying their experiences.

"I can do the legwork and Joe can do the paperwork," Oscar explained recently as a tribute to his buddy's ability as an administrator.

Joe is equally impressed with Oscar's investigative talents. "He really knows how to talk to these guys," he said, referring to the shopkeepers and their clientele.



Oscar Welling (left) and Joe Mirman checking out pawn shop records at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Capt. R.K. Porter, Director of the Investigations Division, shares Sheriff Perry's enthusiasm regarding Joe and Oscar. "These men have done an excellent job for us," he said. "They truly show how the volunteer system can help law enforcement."

Perry pointed out that Oscar and Joe are not the only volunteers in the Sheriff's Office. "We also use volunteers in other capacities," he explained. "They answer phones, file, assist the intelligence section, man the lobby information desk and accept many other responsibilities."

Bertha Hiers, who coordinates the activities of volunteers for the Sheriff's Office, feels that the use of non-paid helpers has been beneficial. "This is a pilot program," she said, "but the volunteers have stuck with it and it is developing."

# the Sheriff's Star

Volume 32, No. 8, February 1989

Publisher, J. M. "Buddy" Phillips, Executive Director, Florida Sheriffs Association

Editor, Carl Stauffer Art Director, Frank Jones Production Assistant, Denise Dickey

The Sheriff's Star is published monthly during February, May, June and September, and bi-monthly during December and January, March and April, July and August, October and November, by the Florida Sheriffs Association, a non-profit corporation, P.O. Box 1487, Tallahassee, Florida, 32302 (street address, 2617 Mahan Drive). The subscription rate is \$5 per year and the publication number is USPS 493-980. Second class postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER — Please send address corrections to The Sheriff's Star, P.O. Box 1487, Tallahassee, Florida, 32302. Copyright © 1989 by Florida Sheriffs Association. ISSN 0488-6186



# After a season of sacrilege, Miami's church burglar confessed

By Wynton K. Anders  
and Donald Thompson

MIAMI — When inner city church burglaries escalated to epidemic proportions, detectives assigned to the Central District Station of the Metro-Dade Police Department saw an opportunity to test the old adage that says: "Unique situations call for unique measures."

There are about 45 churches in the Liberty City-Brownsville section of Miami, and one by one they were being ripped-off — some more than once, some more than twice — and the method of operation was so consistent that investigators became convinced one person was responsible. The culprit would apparently attend a church service, hide inside until everyone left, then make off with whatever valuables were available.

Detective Donald White, the lead investigator, summed up the problem neatly by observing that churches are easy targets. "They have little, if any security," he said. "They hold their services and activities at regular hours so that a burglar always knows when the church buildings will be unoccupied. This is rough to tempt a rip-off artist; but pastors and church officials also fail, almost invariably, to mark church property, thereby making it a snap for a thief to fence it."

When conventional methods of investigation failed to get results, it soon became evident that some special technique would be needed; and Sgt. Larry Johnson came up with one that was eventually called the

"Adopt-a-Church Program."

Johnson realized that the district's handful of investigators were looking for the proverbial "needle in a haystack" because of the large number of vulnerable churches in the area, so he suggested getting the patrol shifts involved.

As a result, each patrol unit was assigned several churches to keep an eye on throughout each shift, and officers began spending every available moment at or near the churches. They sat in the shadows during lunch. While filling out reports they parked in good surveillance points. Almost around-the-clock the collective eye of Central District police was focused on neighborhood churches.

Meanwhile, Community Service Officers went from church to church conducting security surveys and showing clergymen how to engrave identification codes on church property. Utilization of manpower was maximized, and it paid off when Bobby Earl Jones was arrested at the First Baptist Church of Brownsville.

Jones later confessed to committing 75 church burglaries to support a \$500-a-day crack cocaine habit. Detective White said Jones had specialized in stealing amplifiers, microphones, lawn mowers, water coolers, radios and television sets. He added there was no doubt the Adopt-a Church Program played an important part in the investigation.

Maj. Jimmie Brown, Central District Commander, viewed the case from a unique perspective since he is also a pastor. "It saddens me," said he, "to realize that the sacred institution of the church has lost some of its sacredness."

Wynton K. Anders and Donald Thompson are staff writers in the Media Relations Section of the Metro-Dade Police Department.



**Awards presented by Sheriff Neil J. Perry**

ST. AUGUSTINE — St. Johns County Sheriff Neil J. Perry (center) presented awards to four of his employees. They are (from left) Deputies Charles Bradley and Gary Meares, for completing the Field Officer Training Program; Detective Frank Welborn, Jr., for solving a difficult homicide case that offered no real clues; and Communications Officer Rachel Thomas, for handling the most calls in the communications center.



**Award expresses  
Sheriff's gratitude**

TALLAHASSEE — Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone (right), assisted by Sgt. Jack Dawkins, presented an appreciation award to Center One Video Productions, represented by David Murray, Sr., (center) to express his gratitude for assistance received in producing an educational videotape.





*Wilson Bell, Assistant Secretary for Programs, Florida Department of Corrections, explains the impact the Florida prison system is likely to experience from a strong attack on crack traffickers.*



*Lee Moffitt, a member of the law firm representing the Sheriffs Association in legislative matters, makes a point. He is a former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives.*



*Seminole County Sheriff John Polk, former Chairman of the Sheriffs Association's Legislative Committee, gave the summit meeting the benefit of his long experience in legislative matters.*

# Crack cocaine crisis brings Florida's heavy hitters to the conference table

It takes a terrific crime problem to bring the heavy hitters of law enforcement together in high level meetings. Old timers can't remember anything that serious since the race riots of the 1960s, but it's happening again; and this time crack cocaine is the cause.

Officials representing state, county, and city law enforcement agencies held a crack cocaine conference meeting in Ocala, January 17, and are currently planning a second meeting to be held in Fort Myers.

Manatee County Sheriff Charles B. Wells, who presided at the Ocala conference, said the crack cocaine crisis is Florida's number one crime problem. "It is truly an epidemic," he said, "and we are really being kicked in the seat of the pants."

Wells was referring to the fact that the crack business is booming in spite of intensified efforts to control it, and drug-related crimes such as burglaries, armed robberies and homicides are increasing at an alarming rate.

"At \$10 to \$30 a hit, crack is a poor man's drug," he



*Manatee County Sheriff Charles B. Wells, Chairman of the Sheriffs Association's Legislative Committee, described the crack cocaine crisis as "truly an epidemic."*

said, "and it's almost instantly addictive. Addicts lose all normal motivation. All they can think about is crack, and they will do anything to get it."

The Ocala conference was attended by representatives of the Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC).

It produced numerous suggestions such as increasing treatment facilities, intensifying anti-drug abuse education programs, and segregating inmates convicted of drug-related crimes so that they can be offered treatment programs.

But the primary focus was on changing Florida's present drug statute to reflect the seriousness of the crack crisis. The present statute identifies crack as cocaine derivative and requires a crack dealer to be in possession of 28 grams or more in order to be charged with "trafficking in cocaine," a first degree felony that carries stiff mandatory penalties.





**COVER PHOTO** — The conference meeting line-up included (from left) Seminole County Sheriff John Polk; Collier County Sheriff Don Hunter; Attorney Mark Herron, from Moffitt, Hart & Herron law firm, the Sheriffs Association's legislative consultants; Manatee County Sheriff Charles B. Wells (presiding); Florida Sheriffs Association Executive Director J.M. "Buddy" Phillips, Jr.; Indian River County Sheriff Tim Dobeck, Acting President of the Sheriffs Association; Commissioner Tim Moore, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE); and Daryl McLaughlin, Deputy Commissioner, FDLE.



Ocala conferees in addition to those in the cover photo included (counterclockwise from left) Quincy Police Chief Edward M. Spooner, President, Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA); Allan H. Kaye, Legal Advisor, Gainesville Police Department; Executive Director Willis Booth, FPCA; Wilson Bell, Assistant Secretary for Programs, Florida Department of Corrections

(DOC); Bobbie Glover, Admission and Release Administration, DOC; and Jefferson County Sheriff Ken Fortune, Chairman of the Board, Florida Sheriffs Association. Other conferees not pictured included Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland, Ocala Police Chief Lee McGehee and Attorney Kirby Rainsberger, from the Moffitt, Hart & Herron firm.

The summit conferees agreed that crack should be clearly defined as "cocaine free base," apart from other drugs and derivatives; and that possession of as little as 15 grams should be classed as a first degree felony subject to a mandatory three-year sentence and a \$50,000 fine.

These changes were reflected in parallel bills proposed by FDLE and Senator Marlene Woodson. They would provide even stiffer penalties for possession of amounts above 20 grams and above 100 grams.

While discussing these proposed bills, the conferees

*(continued on next page)*



(continued from page 5)

also considered the possibility of adding provisions relating to traffickers in possession of five or more grams of crack.

During the 1988 legislative session, Sheriffs and other law enforcement practitioners supported a bill that would have lowered the crack possession minimum to five grams, but it failed to pass due to the fiscal impact it would have made by increasing the number of arrests and creating a demand for more prison and jail beds in a system that is already overcrowded.

DOC representatives attending the Ocala conference cautioned that fiscal impact is still a vital factor to be considered. They were saying, in effect, "if you increase the number of inmates you are sending us, it will necessitate an increase in the number of inmates to whom early release is being given."

Several tactics designed to reduce the fiscal impact were discussed. One of these was to increase the number of inmates sentenced to electronically monitored house arrest, which is dramatically less expensive than providing more prison beds.

Another option under discussion was closely supervised parole and probation combined with drug treatment programs.

The conferees were told that electronically monitored house arrest would cost approximately \$12 per day per person, while imprisonment would cost approximately \$36 a day. The cost of building new prisons for close custody was placed at \$38,000 per bed.

Sheriff Wells, who is chairman of the Florida Sheriffs Association's Legislative Committee, called the crack crisis devastating. "It often seems bigger than we are," he added, but he was enthusiastic about the Ocala Conference. "It was the healthiest exchange of information and opinions I have ever been involved in on a state-wide basis," he said. "These people knew what they were talking about."

## Panel favors electing Sheriff

FORT LAUDERDALE — A Broward County Charter Commission panel voted 11-2 in favor of continuing to elect the Sheriff and other constitutional officials rather than appointing them. The other officials are the Clerk of Courts, Supervisor of Elections and Property Appraiser.

The panel felt that the officials should remain accountable to voters, according to a news report.

Sheriff Nick Navarro was quoted as saying that he would refuse to work for any boss other than the voters of Broward County. "People have the right to elect their constitutional officers," he said. "We don't have any problem here. Why change it?"

**"If a proposition appears to be too good to be true, it probably is!"**

*By Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro*

FORT LAUDERDALE — South Florida has long been known as one of the nation's most active areas for fraud and confidence games. The transient nature of much of our population and the high percentage of senior citizen retirees seems to make this an attractive target for conmen.

In Broward County, all of law enforcement is familiar with the traditional schemes such as the phony bank examiner, bogus home repairs and the "pigeon drop". But, in recent years, we have seen a more imaginative style among many of those whose purpose in life is to turn a dishonest dollar. They provide a daily challenge to the Broward Sheriff's Office Economic Crimes Unit and our Organized Crime Division's Major Case RICO (Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations) Unit. Here are a few examples:

On July 29, 1988, the RICO Unit concluded a year-long joint investigation with the United States Postal Service that resulted in the arrest of some 60 suspects on charges related to grocery store coupon fraud. The Broward-based ring obtained newspaper inserts from a recycling center, paid volunteers from charities to clip and bundle the coupons, and then funnelled them to the product manufacturers through both legitimate and nonlegitimate stores. The manufacturers, thinking their product coupons had been redeemed by consumers, paid an average of 39.7 cents per coupon. Over its five-year operation, the ring defrauded the companies of more than \$12 million.

In August of 1988, detectives of our Economic Crimes Unit closed the doors of Omni Capital of Plantation by seizing the firm's business records and equipment. Omni preyed upon businesses in financial trouble, "guaranteeing" loans to them from reputable financial institutions and charging \$12,500 to \$30,000 in advance fees. Delay tactics were then used, as Omni sent the troubled company's books to a C.P.A. out of state, along with so-called certificates of beneficial interest, which were supposed to be used as loan collateral. By the time the financial institutions received and rejected the worthless certificates, the victimized company was usually out of business.

Another scheme currently under examination by the Economic Crimes Unit is the phony collection agency. On September 20th of this year, three Broward men were arrested in a fraud involving the diversion of checks into a private account. The comptroller of a metals firm in Massachusetts worked with the Broward men, intercepting checks mailed by a legiti-



mate collections agency for bad debts, then returning them by mail to Broward for deposit in an account under the name of a nonexistent collection agency. Detectives estimated that in nine months about \$10,000 of the metals firm's money was diverted in this manner.

Those are just a few of the complex kinds of cases that test the knowledge and the patience of the detectives in the Economic Crimes and Major Case-RICO Units. The conmen and women of today have the same basic characteristics of seeming sincerity and plausibility as in years past, but they now appear to be sophisticated schemes.

It's an overused phrase, but it bears repeating: If a proposition appears to be too good to be true, it probably is!

## Convicts got rich by altering money orders

Federal investigators said a counterfeiting ring operated by inmates at Indiana State Prison produced \$250 million in phony money orders.

The ring operated for nearly 13 years and made rich men of several inmates, but 13 people have been sent to prison for their part in the scheme.

Inmates arranged for friends to bring them \$1 postal money orders. Then they removed the original mount and restamped the money orders with a higher face value.

Picking names from personals columns of gay magazines, they wrote to the strangers explaining that they couldn't trust anyone in prison and asking them to cash the money orders.

The men who cashed the money orders had instructions to send the money to someone else who would hold it for the inmates.

A postal inspector said thousands of people duped by the scam have been ordered to repay the banks that cashed millions of dollars worth of money orders.

## Prison inmate surveys show quantity's high; quality's low

Behind the bars of America's state prisons there is a wretched world where the population is booming, most citizens have a history of drug abuse, first offenders are rare and a violent past carries more prestige than a pleasing personality.

The latest U.S. Department of Justice survey shows that:

- The state prison population increased from 274,563 inmates in 1979 to 450,416 in 1986.

- About four-fifths of the inmates in prison in 1986 reported having used an illegal drug in the past, and more than three-fifths said they had been habitual users.

- Over four-fifths of the inmates were recidivists.

(They had previously been sentenced to probation or incarceration as a juvenile or adult.) More than 60% had been sentenced at least twice; 45% three or more times; and nearly 20% six or more times.

- Only 5% of state prison inmates were non-violent offenders in 1986 with no previous convictions. Over half of these were convicted of drug trafficking or burglary.

- Only 13% of the state prison inmates were first offenders serving time for a violent crime. Over half of these had been convicted of murder (including nonnegligent manslaughter) or robbery.

- Two-thirds of all inmates were violent offenders, and in this classification 80% were recidivists.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics within the U.S. Department of Justice surveyed state prison populations in 1979 and 1986, and found that their composition had remained relatively stable in spite of rapid growth.

However, there was a small but significant increase in the percentage of Hispanic inmates. The 1986 population was also described as somewhat older, less educated and less likely to have been in military service. Drug offenders increased from 6% of the prison population in 1979 to 9% in 1986.

The surveys gave women inmates a better profile than men. They were less likely to have been convicted of a violent crime and more likely to have been convicted of a property or drug offense.

About three in ten of the women inmates were serving sentences for larceny/theft or fraud. Between 1979 and 1986 the proportion of women in prison for violent offenses dropped from almost half to two fifths.

The surveys revealed that many of the inmates convicted of violent crimes were not strangers to their victims. In over a third of the murders and nearly half of the manslaughters the victim was well known to the offender. Similarly, a third of the rapists and over three-fifths of those convicted of other types of sexual assault were well known to their victims.

Kidnapping and robbery, on the other hand, most often had a stranger as the victim.

## Survey confirms drugs-crime link

A U.S. Department of Justice survey of state prison inmates revealed that 43 percent of them were habitual drug users at the time they did the deed that put them behind bars. They said they had been using illegal drugs on a daily or near daily basis during the month before they were arrested.

Other findings:

Almost 80 percent of inmates had used drugs at some time in their lives, and 52 percent had used a major drug.

Among those who had used drugs, about half had started by age 15.



# Mid-Winter Conference Highlights

## Unanimous vote of Sheriffs places Dobeck at the helm

*More highlights from the Mid-Winter Conference will appear in the March-April issue*

ST. AUGUSTINE — Indian River County Sheriff R. T. "Tim" Dobeck was elected President of the Florida Sheriffs Association by unanimous vote of Sheriffs attending the Association's Annual Mid-Winter Conference here February 12-14.

He served as Vice President during 1988 and became Acting President early in 1989 to fill a brief vacancy. The term to which he was elected extends to the next Mid-Winter Conference, early in 1990. A native of the county he now serves, Dobeck is a 20-year law enforcement veteran, having served two years with Vero Beach Police Department, ten years as an Indian River County deputy sheriff, and eight years as Sheriff of Indian River County. He was reelected in 1988 for his third four-year term.

Named to serve with him as officers of the Sheriffs Association were: Hendry County Sheriff Earl (Sermon) Dyess, Jr., Vice President; Marion County Sheriff Don R. Moreland, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Union County Sheriff Jerry Whitehead, Treasurer; Jefferson County Sheriff Kenneth W. Fortune, Sr., Secretary; Madison County Sheriff Joe C. Peavy, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Calhoun County Sheriff W.G. "Buddy" Smith, Chaplain.

Eight Sheriffs, including Chairman Moreland, were elected to the Board of Directors. They are: Gulf County Sheriff Al Harrison, Wakulla County Sheriff David F. Harvey, St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry, Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander, Sumter County Sheriff James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr., St. Lucie County Sheriff Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles and Sarasota County Sheriff Geoffrey Monge. Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Gilbert, who became a board member in 1988 was named Vice Chairman. Monge and Perry were appointed to the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches governing board, along with Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro and Taylor County Sheriff John Wesley Walker.

Two non-Sheriffs were also named to the Youth Ranches Board. They are Judge W.O. Beauchamp, Jr., Bronson; and J.P. "Jack" Cochran, Holiday.

## Newly-elected officers of the Florida Sheriffs Association



R.T. "Tim" Dobeck  
President



Earl (Sermon) Dyess, Jr.  
Vice President



Don R. Moreland  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



Jerry Whitehead  
Treasurer



Kenneth W. Fortune, Sr.  
Secretary



Joe C. Peavy  
Sergeant-at-Arms



W.G. "Buddy" Smith  
Chaplain





Al Harrison  
Gulf County



David F. Harvey  
Wakulla County

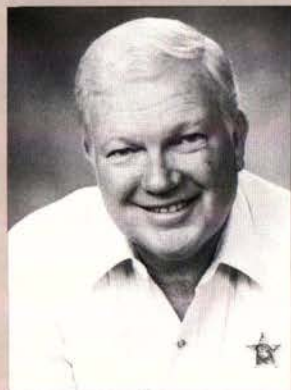


Neil Perry  
St. Johns County



Tom Mylander  
Hernando County

## Newly-elected members of the Association's Board of Directors



James L. "Jamie" Adams, Jr.  
Sumter County



Robert C. "Bobby" Knowles  
St. Lucie County



Geoffrey Monge  
Sarasota County

## Sheriffs want to be elected on a non-partisan basis

ST. AUGUSTINE — During the Mid-Winter Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association someone said that Sheriffs should be elected on a non-partisan basis. The idea was discussed with enthusiasm during business meetings on February 13, and endorsed unanimously.

Later, during a news conference, Association President Tim Dobeck told media reporters the rationale behind the endorsement.

"Crime has no political affiliation, and public safety has no political affiliation," said he. "The responsibilities of Sheriffs, namely good and effective law enforcement, are too important to be influenced by partisan political distractions."

Dobeck announced that the Sheriffs Association's Legislative Committee is drafting proposed legislation for the 1989 session of the Florida Legislature so that the recommended changes in election procedures can be implemented.

At the present time 65 of Florida's 67 Sheriffs are elected in partisan political races. In Dade County, the Director of Public Safety, whose duties are similar to

those of a Sheriff, is appointed under a Metro Charter. The Sheriff of Volusia County is presently elected on a non-partisan basis under a county charter.

## Sheriffs vote to create "crack" cocaine task force

ST. AUGUSTINE — Sheriffs attending the Annual Mid-Winter Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association here February 12-14 voted unanimously to create a statewide task force comprised of Sheriffs and specially trained investigators to intensify the war on "crack" cocaine.

It will be designated the "Florida Sheriffs Crack Cocaine Task Force," and Broward County Sheriff Nick Navarro has been appointed by Sheriffs Association President Tim Dobeck to head up the project.

Dobeck said the task force is expected to be operational by summer, and will operate in areas of the state where the problems created by production and sale of "crack" cocaine are the most severe.

He said the project has the support of Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Tim Moore, who has offered to assist in its development.





#### **Deputy completes course in forensic artistry**

**MILTON** — After Dan Daniels (right) completed a course in Forensic Artistry (sketching sketches used in law enforcement cases and legal proceedings) he demonstrated his talents by sketching a portrait of his boss, Santa Rosa County Sheriff Mauriece Coffman (left). A certificate of appreciation was also presented to Sheriff Coffman for cooperating with a Florida Sheriffs Association task force that is encouraging law enforcement agencies to train and employ forensic artists. The sketch of Sheriff Coffman is an excellent likeness, but this photo does not provide a clear image.



#### **Honored for outstanding service**

Florida Sheriffs Association Legal Secretary Karol Allen received an award honoring her for outstanding service when she resigned to accept a position in the Speaker's Office at the Florida House of Representatives.

## **Retiree praised for distinguished service**

**ST. AUGUSTINE** — When Sgt. Wayne Tanner retired from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office in November, 1988, his 25 years of distinguished service as corrections officer, communications operator, civil process server, road deputy, road sergeant and investigator were noted with praise by Sheriff Neil J. Perry.

"You have established a fine record, demonstrating diligence and resolve while professionally serving the citizens of this county," Perry told Tanner.

The Sheriff also thanked Tanner for accepting extra assignments with the diving team and bomb disposal unit and for his accomplishments as adviser to the Sheriff's Office Explorer Post.

Sgt. Tanner's wife, Dot, received her share of praise for faithfully supporting her husband in many of his activities, especially in his work with the Explorer Post.

Sheriff Perry recalled the citation for bravery awarded to Sgt. Tanner in 1975 after a shootout that led to the arrest of a murder suspect. He said Tanner had also received over 100 commendations during his law enforcement career.

Sgt. Tanner retired from the U.S. Marine Corps before beginning his law enforcement career. His son, Kerry, is a deputy sheriff with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office; and his son, Ben, is in the Marine Corps.



St. Johns County Sheriff Neil J. Perry (left) presents a 25-year service award to Sgt. Wayne Tanner.

## **Tanning salons raided**

**WEST PALM BEACH** — When undercover deputies from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Vice Squad visited tanning salons, they found plenty of suspected prostitutes but no tanning beds, no goggles and no sun lamps. Raids on nine salons resulted in 20 prostitution-related arrests.

"Massage parlors used to be the street-level houses of prostitutes," said a prosecutor who was reviewing the evidence from the raids. "Then it was required to have a state license for the masseuses, so they had to find a new method. Running a tanning salon only requires an occupational license."





### *Performing for safety's sake*

**BROOKSVILLE** — Hernando County Sheriff Tom Mylander posed with two of the star performers during a crime prevention and safety exposition he sponsored at the Hernando County Fairgrounds. The celebrities are "McGruff, the Crime-Fighting Dog" and "Buckle-up Bunny."

## It's still news: When a woman deputy attains district command level

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Women have come a long way in law enforcement during the past 20 years, but they still make headlines when they are promoted to the upper levels of command.

A 1988 headline across five newspaper columns announced that Lyn Dickey had become the first woman promoted to the rank of captain and the first to serve as a district commander in the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

"There is no doubt that she is qualified for the job," said Sheriff Nick Navarro. "Following graduation from Florida State University in 1970, she chose law enforcement as a career. For the past 15 years she has served as a Broward deputy, working in various assignments such as road patrol, juvenile, internal affairs, criminal investigations and homicide.

For her dedication to duty, Captain Dickey has earned 53 commendations."

Navarro said women were just beginning to gain acceptance among the rank and file when Capt. Dickey started her law enforcement career. "Today," he added, "women comprise a large percentage of our total complement. There are 765 sworn deputies in the Broward Sheriff's Office, and 257 of them are female."

As District Commander Capt. Dickey is supervising 60 deputies who are patrolling the streets and investigating crimes in the north end of the county.

## Sheriff Wille has become "good shepherd" for Alzheimer's patients

**WEST PALM BEACH** — The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and the county's Alzheimer's Association chapter have joined forces to help identify and return to their homes wandering persons suffering from the chronic memory loss that accompanies Alzheimer's Disease.

A special registry of people who suffer from memory loss has been established and identification bracelets have been issued to the patients. Each bracelet contains the patient's name and code number, the words "memory loss" and a central telephone number.

Patients' code numbers are registered in a computer maintained by the Sheriff's Office and the Alzheimer's Association so that one phone call to the number on the identification bracelets will result in a speedy rescue operation.

Caregivers who are responsible for Alzheimer's patients receive wallet-size security cards containing the same information as the identification bracelets. This alerts emergency and medical personnel to the fact that there is a patient dependent upon the caregiver for life support in case the caregiver becomes incapacitated.

## Where and how you live does make a difference

Households with high incomes, households in urban areas and black households are the most vulnerable to crime, according to the latest U.S. Department of Justice report on "Households touched by crime."

On a geographic basis, households in the northeast were the least vulnerable to crime, with 19% touched by crime. Other areas ranked as follows: South, 24%; midwest, 25%; and west (the most vulnerable), 29%.

The term "household" as used in the report refers to a dwelling unit (usually a house or an apartment) and the people who occupy it. A household is considered "touched by crime" during the year it was hit by a burglary, auto theft, or household theft; or if a household member was raped, robbed, ripped off or assaulted, no matter where the crime occurred.

In the period covered by the report (1987) one in four American households was touched by a crime of violence or theft. This is the same proportion as the two previous years, but well below the one in three households touched by crime in 1975.

U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics Director Steven R. Schlesinger pointed out that although the number of U.S. households has increased by 18 million since 1975, the actual number of households touched by crime has fallen by more than a million.





# Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches Honor Roll

## Roster of Lifetime Honorary Members

### Home towns eliminated

To protect our Lifetime Honorary Members from receiving unwanted solicitations and junk mail, we have discontinued printing their home towns when we print their names.

We decided this was necessary after we learned that certain organizations of questionable legitimacy were adding our Lifetimers to their mailing lists. Obtaining a complete mailing address was relatively easy for them as long as they had the Lifetimers' home towns. Without the home towns, it will be extremely difficult.

We have never permitted other organizations to use our membership lists, and we will continue to do everything possible to protect the privacy of our members.

Action Appliance  
Rental, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Ross  
Adams, Jr.  
B.P.O.E. of Englewood  
No. 2378  
Mr. Gerard E. Barry  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R.  
Bean  
Board of County  
Commissioners  
Suwannee County  
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd H.  
Bregger  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B.  
Carroll  
Ms. Trina Chicvara  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Clacher  
Mr. & Mrs. William H.  
Conrad  
Coral Ridge  
Presbyterian  
Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C.  
Crews  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Q.  
Cullen  
Mr. Robert T. Ellis, Jr.  
Employees of Denny's  
Restaurant

Environmental  
Technologies, Inc.  
Mrs. Hazel C.  
Fickenscher  
Mrs. Olga Flint  
Ms. Newella Ford  
Mrs. Millred R. Frazier  
Mr. & Mrs. John H.  
Garner  
German American  
Society, Inc.  
Mr. Bill Greenway  
Mr. Sam Head  
Mr. Kent Hjelmervik  
Dr. Marsha  
Hoffman-Vaile  
Mr. John A. Hurd, Sr.  
Independent Life  
Insurance Co.  
Italian American Club of  
Cape Coral  
John Langford, Inc.  
Mrs. Gladys Kendra  
Mr. & Mrs. Franklyn  
Kenny  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul V. Ladd  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Legg  
Mr. Russell K. Malloy  
Mr. John Mangin

On these pages we give special recognition to generous supporters of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches who have qualified for Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Florida Sheriffs Association by giving \$1,000 or more to the Youth Ranches. Each Lifetime Honorary Member receives a plaque, a lifetime identification card and a lifetime subscription to *The Sheriff's Star*. Under a new regulation which became effective in 1984, those whose gifts total over \$5,000 will receive additional gold stars on their plaques — one for \$5,000, two for \$10,000, and so on, up to a maximum of five stars for gifts totaling over \$25,000.

## Presentations

We regret that photos of Lifetime Honorary Members are not always available when their names appear on the membership roster. Consequently, we often find it necessary to print the names in one issue of *The Sheriff's Star* and the photos in a subsequent issue.



BOYS RANCH — Presented by Youth Ranches Regional Director Pat Monogue (left) to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Glattli.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert H.  
Marion  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford W.  
Moderau  
Ms. Maggie Nolan  
Mr. & Mrs. Lanie Norvell  
Parker Hannifin  
Foundation  
Ms. Laurie Potier-Brown  
Mr. Leon Ramsey  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Reber  
Mrs. Winifred Rowert  
Mr. & Mrs. James  
Russell

Mr. Howard Sachs  
Sea Dog Sportswear  
Mr. Jack Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman  
Sutherby  
Mrs. Venita Sweeney  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim  
Townsend  
Mr. Robert E. Wilson  
Withlacoochee-Gulf  
Area Chamber  
of Commerce



## Youth Ranches Honor Roll continued . . .



**PALM BEACH GARDENS** — A Lifetime Honorary Membership issued in memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Murdock was presented to her descendants, the Gearhart family, by Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving Robert C. Haag. Pictured with the membership plaque are Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gearhart and their son, Brett.



**Slevins**

Presented by Robert C. Haag, Youth Ranches Vice President for Planned Giving, to Col. and Mrs. Leo Slevin and Earl Newbery, Broward County residents.

**Newbery**



**TALLAHASSEE** — Presented by Leon County Sheriff Eddie Boone (right) to Mr. and Mrs. William Thurston.



### **Sheriffs appointed to the Youth Ranches governing board**

Four Sheriffs were appointed to the governing board of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc., during the Florida Sheriffs Association's Annual Mid-Winter Conference. Two of them, Sheriffs Neil Perry and Geoffrey Monge, are pictured elsewhere in this issue as newly-elected members of the Sheriffs Association's Board of Directors. Pictured here are Sheriffs Nick Navarro, Broward County; and John Wesley Walker, Taylor County.



**Navarro**



**Walker**



## The jail could be next stop if you're soused in the saddle

You don't have to be driving a car or a truck to get arrested for drunken driving.

A Tallahassee man was convicted of operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol near the beginning of 1988 and became the first person in Florida to be found guilty of DUI on a bicycle. Undoubtedly there will be others. A news report said autopsies revealed that 20 to 30 percent of the 111 bicyclists killed in Florida in 1986 were drunk.

The legal basis for arresting drunken bicyclists has been in effect since 1983 when the Florida Legislature classified bicycles as "vehicles," thus including them in the state's drunken driving law.

Riding a horse while zonkered is also risky. A Maryland man arrested for riding a horse on a public sidewalk after he had been drinking pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated and was sentenced to 45 days in jail.

The horseman argued that the state's motor vehicle laws do not apply to people on horseback, but a judge dismissed his motion and ordered the case to go to trial. The defendant pleaded guilty in order to receive a reduced sentence and to avoid the possibility of an 11-month jail term.

## U.S. prison population hits all-time high

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The USA's prison population hit an all-time high of 604,824 in 1988, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Justice.

This represented a 5.9 percent hike from 1987, with females causing a larger proportion of the increase than males. The female population grew 8.5 percent compared with 5.8 percent for males.

Between 1980 and 1988 the female prison population rose 130 percent, from 13,420 to 30,834; while males increased 81 percent, from 316,401 to 573,990.

Florida's prison population increased only 2.8 percent from 1987 to 1988. The totals were 32,771 and 33,681.

Georgia's figures were 18,191 and 18,686, an increase of 2.7 percent. Alabama dropped 0.7 percent, from 12,272 to 12,190.

## Embezzlers hit Sheriff's Office

FORT LAUDERDALE — A 21-year-old law school student with a degree in accounting, and a former bank teller also 21, were charged with embezzling over \$300,000 from the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

News reports gave the following details:

While working as a bookkeeper in the Civil Division

of the Sheriff's Office, the law school student began withdrawing funds from a bank account used for money collected by the Sheriff's Office on behalf of litigants in civil court judgments.

He allegedly mixed phony checks in with legitimate bank drafts to get authorized signatures on them; then delivered them to the bank teller, a former schoolmate, for deposit. The pair apparently planned to invest the embezzled funds, reap a profit, and then sneak them back into the Sheriff's Office account; but their scam was discovered before they were able to complete the process.

## Jailmates turn in "Wanted" man

WEST PALM BEACH — *America's Most Wanted*, a television show designed to catch criminals, was being watched in the Palm Beach County Stockade when viewers saw the profile of a fellow inmate who had been arrested on burglary charges and turned him in.

They knew the wanted man as James Eide, but the TV program identified him as Mark Goodman, a six-time prison escapee.

The inmates told guards about Goodman (alias Eide), but he escaped in handcuffs while U.S. Marshals were enroute to identify him.

He was apprehended in a shopping mall the next day when an off-duty policeman saw a man wearing one handcuff.

## Looking for love — and more

The newspaper headlines said: "Man loved, then robbed." Underneath it was these details:

"To the readers of his personal ads, David Duane Dubose was looking for love.

"Those who responded, Police said, quickly learned he was seeking more — their cash and jewelry.

"Dubose, 25, placed personal ads in newspapers and gay magazines and called the pay party telephone numbers in search of potential victims, Broward County Sheriff's Detective Paul Liccardo said.

"After a year of dating and stealing, Dubose... was arrested. He was charged with two counts of grand theft and booked into the Broward County Jail after one victim reported that her \$6,200 Rolex watch and a \$1,200 emerald necklace were stolen by Dubose, Liccardo said.

"In some cases Dubose would offer himself as a gigilo, charging \$100 for sex, Liccardo said.

"Although the woman who had her watch and necklace stolen was the first to report Dubose's crime, he also confessed to stealing money and jewelry from many women, Liccardo said."



## ... and now, topless tellers!

FORT LAUDERDALE — Usually the only jobs available to topless girls are in topless bars and restaurants, but new employment opportunities have been opening up in Broward County.

The first venture away from night life naughtiness was a topless doughnut shop serving "go-go" breakfasts.

Next came a topless check cashing service where bare-chested hostesses helped customers fill out check cashing forms and sold snacks, soft drinks, beer and cigarettes.

When news reporters asked a Sheriff's Office spokesman if it was legal, he told them topless businesses were within the law in unincorporated areas of the county as long as they didn't admit people under 18.

## Nothing but the best

News reports said transvestites were suspected of committing a rash of smash-and-grab burglaries at exclusive shops selling designer dresses on Florida's "Gold Coast."

One boutique near Boynton Beach lost \$50,000 worth of fancy duds after being looted twice. Another reported losing seven racks of designer clothing valued at \$20,000.

Three members of a transvestite gang were arrested in June after they attempted to ram their car into a Lord and Taylor Department Store at Coral Springs. That seemed to end the gang's crime spree, but the smash-and-grab thefts resumed in December, 1988; and the gender switchers were the prime suspects.



### *A prelude to Law Enforcement Appreciation Week*

VERO BEACH — Indian River Community College President Edwin R. Massey (center) presents resolutions to Indian River County Sheriff R.T. "Tim" Dobeck (left) and Stuart Police Chief Charles White proclaiming March 5-11 as "Community College Law Enforcement Appreciation Week." The presentation was held at Indian River Community College during a meeting of the State Board of Community Colleges. Dobeck and White represented Florida's Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Associations. Dr. Massey said the salute to law enforcement was prompted by the fact that community colleges train most of Florida's law enforcement officers.

### *Confiscated boat beefs up Sheriff's Navy*

BARTOW — A \$7,000 boat and trailer confiscated during a 1,200-pound marijuana seizure was presented to Polk County Sheriff Lawrence W. Crow, Jr., (right) by Special Agent in Charge Phil Ramer, from the Tampa Bay Operational Bureau of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.



### *More ammunition for fighting drug abuse*

VERO BEACH — Fight Drug Abuse of Indian River County, Inc., an organization that raises funds to provide anti-drug abuse materials for the Indian River County Sheriff's Office to distribute in schools, recently received a portion of the proceeds from a golf tournament held at Vista Plantation Golf Club. Don Livingston (right), who was credited with initiating the gift, is shown presenting a check to Sheriff R.T. "Tim" Dobeck (left) and George Brodo, Chairman of the Fight Drug Abuse organization. "This program is working," said Brodo, "through the assistance of Sheriff Dobeck and his School Resource Officers."







*Sheriff W.A. Woodham presenting a Distinguished Service Award to Kathy Poppell.*

## Sheriff presents award to young woman who risked shootout to capture burglar

QUINCY — What would you think if you lived in rural Gadsden County south of Quincy and, as you drove up to your home, you saw an unfamiliar truck in your front yard?

Would you suspect that you had discovered a burglary in progress?

Mrs. Elizabeth Poppell did early in December; and instead of going into her own house, which could have been dangerous, she went next door to the home of Kathy Poppell, her daughter-in-law, and called the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office.

Meanwhile, Kathy Poppell used her car to block the parked truck, armed herself with a revolver and waited for the suspected burglar to emerge. When he came out carrying a loaded rifle he was in the act of stealing, she fired a warning shot in the air, causing him to drop the rifle; then she held him at gunpoint until deputy sheriffs arrived.

The suspect was charged with armed burglary, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and grand theft. He was scheduled to go on trial on Jan. 1, 1989.

Sheriff W.A. Woodham was delighted to have a burglary case cleared so speedily; and he presented Kathy with a Florida Sheriffs Association Distinguished Service Award, an honor reserved for individuals who have provided exemplary assistance to law enforcement agencies.

Woodham said Kathy is employed as a communications supervisor at the Tallahassee Police Department and therefore has a police work background. He agreed with the Editor of *The Sheriff's Star* that it is not advisable for civilians without police experience to risk a shootout with armed burglars.

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